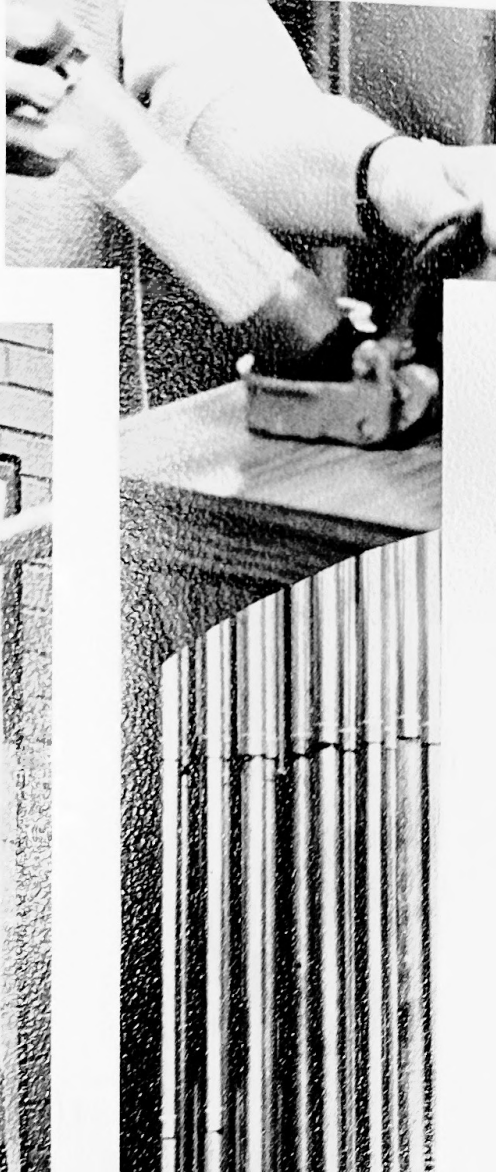
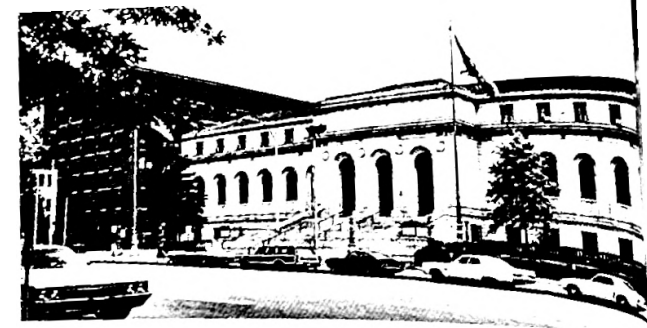




ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNUAL REPORT 1972 - 1973



ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY



Main Library, 1301 Olive St.
Compton Library, 1624 Locust St.
Community Services/Film Library Service
Baden Branch, 8448 Church Road
Barr Branch, 1701 S. Jefferson Ave.
Benton Branch, 1921 Prather Ave.
Buder Branch, 5320 Hampton Ave.
Cabanne Branch, 1106 Union Blvd.
Carondelet Branch, 6800 Michigan Ave.
Carpenter Branch, 3309 S. Grand Blvd.
Crunden Branch, 2008 Cass Ave.
Des Peres Branch, 5960 Kingsbury Blvd.
Divoll Branch, 4234 N. Grand Blvd.
Fyler Branch, 6440 Fyler Ave.
Gravois Branch, 5028 Morganford Road
Kingshighway Branch, 4641 Shenandoah Ave.
Lashly Branch, 4537 W. Pine Blvd.
Mid-City Branch, 3901 Washington Ave.
Sherman Park Branch, 2902 Union Blvd.
Walnut Park Branch, 5760 W. Florissant Ave.
Wellston Branch, 5886 Martin Luther King Dr.
Municipal Reference Library, 13 City Hall
Wolfner Memorial Library for the Blind and
Physically Handicapped, 1808 Washington Ave.

Founded in 1865, the St. Louis Public Library was reorganized and became tax supported in 1893, now serves a population of 622,236, its materials and services loaned free to city residents and city tax payers (non-resident annual fee \$25). The Library tax rate of \$.25 per \$100 assessed valuation was established in 1970.

The Library system's 173 agencies include the Main Library, twenty branches, seven bookmobiles, 45 schools (with 320 classroom libraries) and 100 deposit libraries in adult education, community, prison and senior citizen centers.

The Main Library was open 305 days during the year, 65 hours each week, closed on eight holidays, with usual period of book loan 14 days.

THE YEAR OF REORGANIZATION . . .

Sweeping social and economic changes occurring in the years since the Main Library opened in 1912 have changed the patterns of St. Louisans' use of the Library. No longer is there a significant residential population surrounding it, and the rise of convenient community branches and mobile services has drawn residents in search of standard reference and current reading materials. University, school and special libraries now supply students' curriculum needs.

Remaining at the Main Library, however, is the large body of resources collected over the past one hundred years, sought out by scholars and researchers for its riches unobtainable elsewhere. Its paper content was deteriorating, its use limited and difficult by dispersion through departments established more than sixty years ago. The arrangement was awkward in location and staffing requirements. Worse, it was inconvenient to readers who often, for lack of a central information center, searched on two floors for needed items. Inaccessible were many indexes to national literature collections, and government documents for which the Library is a depository.

The installation in 1972 of a central air conditioning and heating system, to halt deterioration of materials, was the first move toward adapting the Main Library's facilities to contemporary use. The rich resource collection is known to be most heavily used by persons in specific large blocks of reader interest. This was the basis for reorganization of materials and staff into new groupings according to public use, a project now almost completed.



Moving these resources within the architectural restrictions of the sixty-year-old Main Library was a mammoth task. All books in the closed stacks were measured, labeled, then reshelfed in sequential order, with simultaneous vigorous weeding of the collection and catalog card changes to reflect new locations of 18,000 volumes. Many frequently used books were transferred from the stacks into the new public service departments. With few exceptions, materials formerly unavailable to the public at night in departments closed for staff security may now be used during Library evening hours.

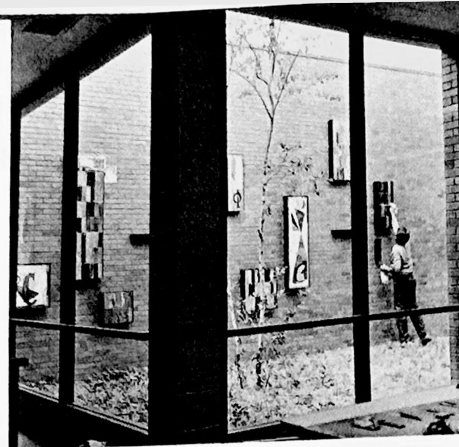
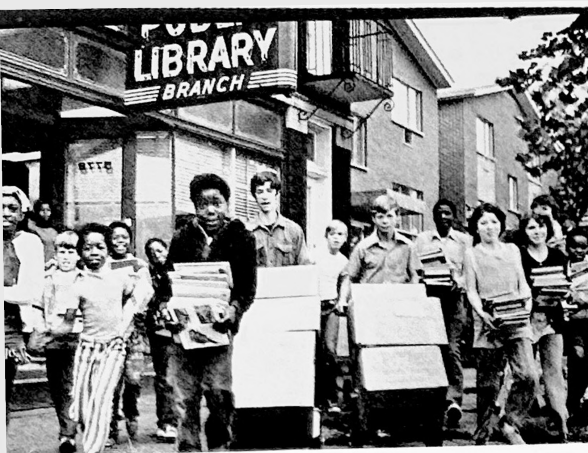
The new arrangement offers many advantages to the Library user searching for information, engaged in serious research or browsing for inspiration and recreation. On the second floor, at the heart of the Library system, is Readers' Services with the new bibliographic center containing indexes to most of civilization's written works—the national libraries of Great Britain, France, Germany, the United States and others—and the catalog index to the Library's collection. Nearby are the new government documents and serial (periodicals) indexes to these heavily used materials. Books from the stacks can now be quickly obtained at the circulation desk through four reactivated book elevators linking the seven stack levels, and a new pneumatic tube system.



Ranged about these centralized "locating" services are subject departments based on established reader use—the new History and Genealogy and Humanities and Social Sciences departments, and the existing Art and Architecture, Children's Literature, Periodical Reading rooms and Carol McDonald Gardner Rare Book Room. More books are readily supplied from the shelves to the reader than was possible under the previous arrangement. Professional librarians are on hand to aid the inquirer and quiet reading and study space abounds.

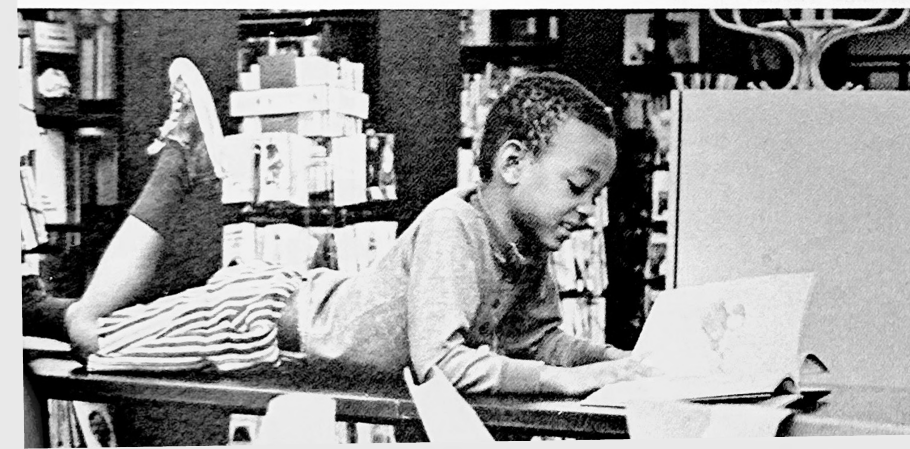


The first floor now provides convenient access for patrons' routine, short term and self-service needs. In the west wing are the Registration Department, which issues library cards and maintains borrowers' records, the greatly expanded Microfilm Room and specialized Applied Science Department. The new Popular Library in the east wing has been enlarged to offer current and popular books, the large phonorecord collection and cassette tapes, framed art prints and sculpture for borrowing.



In late September, when shelving and furniture were installed in the building, neighbors—preschoolers, high school and college students, parents, grandparents—and library staff formed a brigade to move books from the old into the new Walnut Park Branch. Dedication of the new building, with its sculpture wall extending into a garden court, was on October 1, the culminating event of a week-long community celebration in Walnut Park. In December Mid-City Branch opened in new leased quarters with “A Holiday Happening” for the community. Municipal Reference Library in City Hall was transferred to Room 13, while Carondelet Branch received a thorough renovation and modernization.

Children’s librarians increased work with preschool children in day care and Head Start centers, and presented diversified activities to attract children to the libraries. The branches were especially busy with great numbers of children during the public school teachers’ strike. Almost 2800 children completed the summer reading program to win book prizes and certificates.

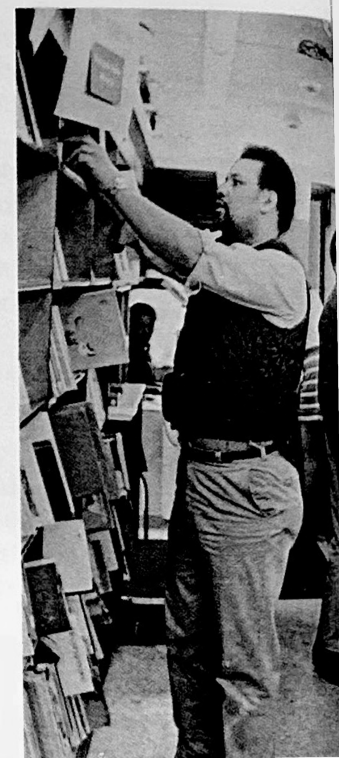


Bookmobile service shifted in emphasis from schools to adults and previously unreached persons. Regular visits were added at 31 community locations while discontinuing eleven school schedules. Now 71 community stops serve persons in jail, unwed mothers, neglected children, persons with learning disabilities and 29 fire stations throughout the city. Monthly visits to 119 shut-ins continue. Requests at a bookmobile stationed at the Old Post Office during “Fine Free Week” in June led to three new busy lunchtime visits added downtown. The week’s moratorium on fines restored 12,630 overdue books and phonorecords to the shelves, and borrowing privileges to delinquent users whose records were cleared.

The new Community Education Program, emphasizing upgrading of reading skills, focused on personal contact with hundreds of potential library users to acquaint them with reading and learning materials. The Great Books Program was effectively revived, and a series of classes in business skills was begun.

Dramatizing the marked increase in community use of all branch facilities is Carondelet Branch, which in February alone scheduled 45 separate programs and community meetings.

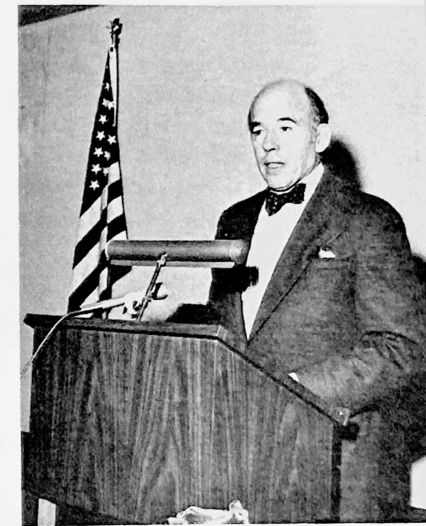
Adult (including young adult) book loans in the branches rose a gratifying eleven percent. Gravois Branch adults borrowed startling 47 percent more books than in the previous year, with the young turning even more to paperbacks and phonorecords of currently popular subjects. Although children’s use decreased slightly, notable increases in children’s borrowing did occur at Mid-City and Lashly branches.





While the Library reorganized its central resources and extended services to new groups, it also joined with others in cooperative efforts to make library services available to more people. A reciprocal borrowing agreement began on October 2 with eight suburban public libraries immediately adjacent to St. Louis. Similar privileges were extended to faculty of member institutions in the Higher Education Coordinating Council. In this fourth year of the reciprocal film contract with St. Louis County Library, borrowers used an equal number of films from both collections. Wolfner Memorial Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is now serving a clientele of 6,492, mostly adult, through direct loan and deposits across Missouri in public libraries, schools, hospitals and nursing homes. The popular new "hot line" service inaugurated by Missouri State Library provides current state legislative information through the Library's Documents Department. Tools for "Operation Ident," provided by the Women's Crusade against Crime, are in constant demand at the libraries.

Other free services initiated by the Library during the past year include publication of the "BlackAmerican Artists Index," a compilation of often elusive references in the Library's collection to individual artists, schools and galleries - announced at an exhibit and program of African folk art - and "Hands Across America," a children's reading list designed to encourage understanding of various cultures. Programs added further variety and dimension to library services, presenting such authorities as Dr. Helmut Lehmann-Haupt on illuminated manuscripts; the Tuesday Ab Lib series with Richard Dudman, St. Louis Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau chief, a dramatic review of works by St. Louis authors, Space/Science exhibits and programs and a special "Contact 301" walking tour to acquaint the public with the Main Library's new look following the reorganization.

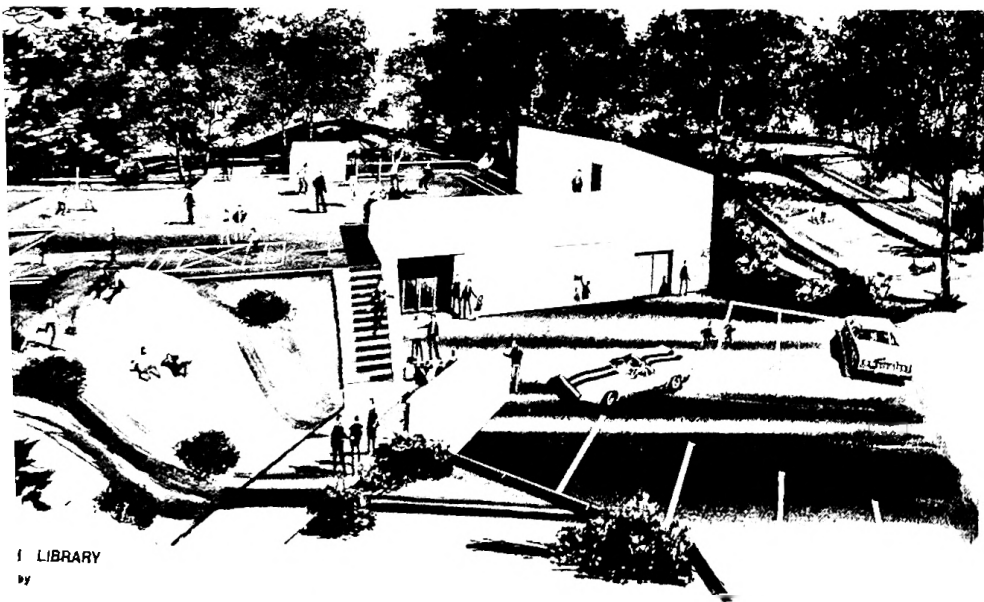


The St. Louis Public Library has made significant progress toward its goal of improving service to St. Louisans in an impressive year of events and developments which speak for the dynamic character and energy of the institution as a whole. Some projects initiated this year will, when completed, emerge as improved service for Library users.

Several inservice programs were offered to help our staff be more effective and give better service to our users. A federally financed program provided a second year of formal training to increase job skills. The Library also assumed the total cost of medical hospital and life insurance coverage for its employees, surely one of our most valuable resources.

The massive reorganization of the rich core collection at the Main Library, following installation of a new central heating-air conditioning system; the opening of a new Walnut Park Branch; relocations of Mid-City Branch and Municipal Reference Library and modernization of the Carondelet Branch—all were designed to enhance the quality and convenience of library services to our publics. Construction has begun on expansion and remodeling of Kingshighway Branch, where federal funds will provide half the cost of adding an auditorium, new heating-air conditioning system, new parking lot and landscaping. The renovated facilities will be completed in mid-summer. Construction will begin soon on the new Machacek Branch Library to replace Fyler Branch, with forty percent of the cost covered by federal funds.

Federal funds also have been secured to compile a union list of serials



for libraries in metropolitan St. Louis. In addition to better serving customers of all libraries, the list will materially increase the usefulness to readers in our branches of the Main Library's gigantic collection of magazines and journals.

The coming year's budget reflects an increase of \$460,354 over that of 1972-1973, permitting the Library to absorb costs of staff and books needed to maintain present services now provided with federal funds, which will be discontinued under the proposed cutoff of all library aid. Expenditures for books, materials and operations will be lowered slightly, and only urgent maintenance and repairs are scheduled.

A recent Library study has determined that the bindery is an economic liability. Since our total binding needs can be less expensively satisfied through a commercial firm, this internal service department will be discontinued in the coming fiscal year.

Effectively meeting future developments in a rapidly changing world depends in greatest measure on the extent and use of our information resources to make informed decisions. This Library is pledged to serve St. Louisans with needed resources in the best, most efficient, way possible, with supporting services which enable citizens to fulfill their highest goals.

In this effort we are fortunate to have the leadership of a forward-looking board of directors. Two members, Mrs. Jesse M. Abbington and Mrs. John W. Seddon, have completed many years of intensely devoted and able service. Beginning new terms this year are Mrs. Eugene L. Fowler and John T. Dickmann.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

E. R. CULVER III, *Chairman*
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PAXTON P. PRICE, *Librarian and Secretary*

LIBRARY CONTENTS AND USE

Library Resources on March 31, 1973

1,418,382 volumes (86,074 books added, 93,867 withdrawn during the year, a net decrease of 7,793 volumes, of which 26% are for reference use, 74% circulating)
2,496,362 miscellaneous resources, including
3,539 different periodicals, 149 newspapers, 619 government periodicals
1,646,864 pamphlets, 84,037 maps
25,892 microfilms, 58,406 microprints, 27,909 microfiche,
9,482 microcards
504,369 photographs, pictures, unframed prints, 1,424 framed prints
30,235 slides, 1,881 16mm, 674 8mm films; 282 projected books
283 sculpture reproductions
27,308 phonograph records, 145 cassette tapes
Wolfner: 972 reel, 4,097 cassette tapes; 18,778 braille books,
48,011 Talking Books, 1,006 large print books

Library Resources Borrowed by the Public 1972-1973

2,592,886 items borrowed, including
2,572,367 books, phonograph records and cassette tapes; 6,867 framed art prints; 1,186 children's prints; 11,907 slides and 559 sculpture
41,747 film showings were viewed by 826,298 persons

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Year ended March 31, 1973

The information shown herein has been summarized by the Library from its financial records. A copy of the Certified Public Accountant's annual report is on file in the Library's offices.

Statement of Operations — General Fund

Revenues	\$4,651,589
Operating expenses	3,697,727

\$ 953,862

Capital improvements	539,105
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Revenues exceeded expenses \$ 414,757

General Fund Balance Sheet

Assets	\$3,189,919
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Liabilities

Reserve working capital, 1973-1974

General Fund balance, March 31, 1973

\$3,189,919

Other Fund Balances

Balance March 31, 1972

Receipts

Gifts

Investment income

Federal grant funds

Fire loss recovery

Other

264,904

\$ 578,516

Disbursements

Books

Other

Balance March 31, 1973

354,156

\$ 224,360

Photographs by Peter Ferman Photographers, except page 4 (center and lower right) by St. Louis Globe-Democrat and St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and page 5 (Librarian) by Artega Photos

Annual Report designed and prepared by the Library's Public Relations Department



St. Louis Public Library
1301 Olive Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103

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